1976

The MESSENGER

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S

Milnrow
&
Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

April

Sun. 4th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon. 5th	6.30pm	Pilots
Tues. 6th	7.30pm	Ladies Guild Competition night
Wed. 7th	2.00pm	Young Mums
	7.30pm	Whist Drive
	7.45pm	House Meeting at 32 Ladyhouse Close, Milnrow.
Sat. 10th to 15th		Pilots go to Camp.
Sun. 11th	11.00am	Mrs Nash
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash
Mon. 12th	1.30pm	Mystery outing for Pilots left at home. Meet at school.
Wed. 14th	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Thu. 15th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service, Rev. A. Nash - Communion.
Fri. 16th	11.00am	Good Friday Service - Rev. A. Nash
++~~Mon.~~ 26th	8.15pm	Men's Games Night Fellowship
Sun. 18th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash, Family Communion
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash
Sun. 25th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash
Mon. 26th	6.30pm	Pilots
Tue. 27th	7.30pm	Ladies Guild Rally in Church Speaker - Mrs V. West of Besses o'th Barn U.R.C.
Wed. 28th	2.00pm	Young Mums
	7.30pm	Whist Drive - Pennine Room
	7.30pm	Church Meeting in school.
Thu. 29th	8.00pm	Young Mums Committee Meeting at 3 Humber Road.

May

Sat. 1st	7.00pm	- 9.30pm MAY DAY MASQUERADE in School, Admn. 10p Fancy Dress Competition Refreshments on Sale.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Apr. 4th	Mr K. Hey	Mrs E. Galvin
11th	Mrs P. Royle	Mrs C. Clough
18th	Mrs B. Stott	Mrs A. Prestwich
25th	Mrs C. Rothwell	Mrs A. Lynch
May 2nd	Mrs E. Gowdridge	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

PLEASE NOTE: Fortnight commencing 29th March, National Children's Home, House to House collection; Volunteers please see Mrs K. Hill

April

Sat. 3rd	7.15pm	Family Social
Sun. 4th	10.30am	Mr J. Lord
Wed. 7th	6.45pm	Pilots
Sat.10th-15th		Pilot Camp
Sun.11th	10.30am	Palm Sunday - Rev. A.Nash
	NOTE!	NO EVENING SERVICE
Fri.16th	11am	Joint Good Friday Service at Victoria St. Methodists.
Sun.18th	10.30am	EASTER DAY - Mrs Nash
Tue.20th	7.30pm	Womens Guild - Mrs West
Sun.25th	10.30am)	Festival Service - FROM
	6.00pm)	MANGER TO CROSS. Rev. Glyn Jenkins, B.A.,B.D., Junior Church Anniversary Organist - Mr A. Clegg
Tue.27th	7.30pm	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Wed.28th	6.45pm	Pilots

May

Sun. 2nd	10.30am	Mr J. Lord
Tue. 4th	7.30pm	Busy Bees. Younger Guilders Victoria Sandwich Competition Sale of Seedlings 10p In aid of Carpet Fund

COLLECTIONS

	cash	envelopes
Jan. 4th	3.46½	12.07½
11th	10.36	14.46
18th	7.03	18.00½
25th	3.67	9.25
Feb. 1st	2.78	13.60
8th	6.23	15.30
15th	2.83	16.31
22nd	8.36	13.25
29th	4.09	25.00

From the Manse

April, 1976

My dear friends,

All of us, I am sure, are looking forward to the coming of the Easter season, which seems to mark the great opening of the year. Warmer and longer days lie ahead, park cafes open their shuttered windows, trees are green with fresh leaves, and the world seems filled with a wonderful freshness. It is as though we have moved from doubt as to whether winter days would never cease, to the glad realisation that they have indeed been left behind. It is like moving from "darkness into light". One of the writers of the New Testament uses such words as those to describe what God has done for men in Jesus Christ -- that He has called them out of darkness into His marvellous light.

There are many who still live in doubt and darkness in these days, yet they need not do so. God has sent to us the light of the world that in Him we might have light and hope by which to live. It is true that there are dark days in all our lives just as the days leading up to Easter were dark for Jesus. Yet the tragedy of Good Friday is shot through with the hope of Easter Day and God has power to bring about His purposes even in the most unlikely circumstances. My Easter message for you is, therefore, look forward in hope, and have faith in God who vindicated the trust and obedience of Jesus with the Resurrection.

A happy and most blessed Easter to you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:

Jesus said - "I am come - a light into the world - that whosoever believes on me may not abide in the darkness".

John's Gospel 12: 46.

HOLY BAPTISM

We were pleased to receive into the Church the young son of Roy and Pauline Booth, 84 Bentgate Street ... ... on March 7th

-- NEIL MARTYN BOOTH --

God bless and keep this child in His care and under His guidance.

WORSHIP WITH US AT EASTER

Services at Littleborough URC

PALM SUNDAY, 11th April at 10.30 Rev.A.Nash

GOOD FRIDAY, 16th April at 11.00
Joint Service with Victoria St. Methodists.

EASTER DAY, 18th April at 10.30 Mrs A.Nash

Services at St. Stephens URC

PALM SUNDAY, 11th April at 11.00 Mrs Nash and at 6pm a Special Service followed by Fellowship Time organised by the Young People

MAUNDAY THURSDAY, 15th April at 7.30pm
Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, 16th April at 11.00 Rev.A.Nash

EASTER DAY, 18th April at 11.00 and 6pm

"God so loved the world, that he sent His Son to live in it, suffer by it and die for it."

WHERE THERE IS SICKNESS.....

.....Please let our Minister know about it, either by stopping him when you see him, calling at the Manse or 'phoning 50161 at any time. PLEASE!!

FAR AFIELD

The World Missions Committee held their Annual Meeting at the end of February and the resignation of Miss Mollie Wood was sadly accepted. Mrs Brenda Sharples has taken her place on the committee and we already have her lined up for a Coffee Evening at her home on May 18th.

Readers should by now be aware that we have ended the used stamp collection but anyone who has been left with stamps can still hand them to Audrey Baines.

The Committee are asking you to orientate your thoughts towards Saturday 12th June when a local Pedestrian Treasure Hunt will be held... but more of this later. In the meantime concentrate please, on filling those Missionary Boxes ready for handing in on May 16th. We hope to do even better this year than last when we raised £95.02 by the efforts of a lot of people to whom we now express a sincere thanks.

NOT SO FAR AFIELD

Whilst on holiday at Sheringham in Norfolk, Mrs Hanson and Miss Tither visited the local Salvation Army Corps for service and put their names in the visitors' book. Recently they received the following message by post card:

"Dear Mrs Hanson,

The comrades at Sheringham S.A. Corps send these warmest greetings and wish you to know that you will be remembered in prayer on Sunday 21st March during evening service. With you we do praise God for His salvation, through Jesus, our Lord, given so freely. May we ever live to His glory and honour and may He abundantly bless you.

In His precious name,
Monica Long."

This is a lovely idea.

"GET TOGETHER".....

...at 32 Ladyhouse Close on 7th April when Mr & Mrs Harry Whitehead invite you to an informal gathering at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity for people and Minister to meet specifically to discuss matters of faith...

...This is an open invitation. See you there.

FELLOWS FELLOWSHIP Dont forget the Men's Fellowship on Monday 26th April, when all the big lads and dads are invited to show their prowess at Table Tennis, Billiards and what not. Come and join us.

A TRIP OUT

For the Ladies Guild to

SMITHILLS COACH HOUSE → BOLTON

Tuesday 25th May — Set off 7.30pm from

Coach seats 55p — Council Offices

Please give your names to Mrs M. Holden as soon as possible if you wish to come.

RALLY

Annual Ladies Guild Rally is on 27th April

Speaker: Mrs V. West of Besses'o'thBarn.

Also ordinary meeting Tue. Apr. 6th - "Competition Night".

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

125 Ladies attended the WWDOP sessions to join in thought and discussion on the theme "Education Through Living". Christians of other denominations joined us for the services and for the "follow-up session" held ten days later and we look forward to future times of fellowship together.

There was much food for thought in the theme sung by the mixed choir:

"There's a world out there,
The Lord calls you to listen;
There's a world out there,
Dont you hear it cryin'
Dont you hear it sighin'
Dont you hear it dyin'
Wont you listen, listen, listen.

MUMS WORDS

See the child, with his head bowed low
Tired and weary, yet fearing to go
Up to his bed where he'll soon be dreaming
Of cars and horses or monsters screaming.
He doesn't want to go right now,
But wait awhile, and his head will bow.
His weary eyes will close up tight,
And he'll be asleep too tired to fight
To stay awake just a few minutes more,
So tiptoe out and close the door.

Then thank your God, or who you will,
That you've got a child, your heart to fill
With love and with a tender care,
It sometimes seems too much to bear.
And think of others, not so lucky as you,
Who wish they could do the things you do
Like washing and ironing, and tidying toys,
And things which bring so many joys;
Seeing big blue eyes shining bright,
The baby arms which hold you tight.

Just sit and think of all you've got,
And thank your God, you've got a lot;
You've things no money on earth can buy,
We're very lucky ----- you and I.

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Programmes for Wednesday afternoons "Young Mums" time include Reminiscing (we all like doing this occasionally); "Going for a song"; Literary afternoon and "This happened to me".

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On April 7th the "Young Mums" will be celebrating a second birthday. A great deal has happened in that two years - many new friends have been made and much happiness and help given. Don't forget - any Young Mum feeling lonely, tired and fed-up - Wednesday afternoons from 2 p.m. is for you.

PREPARING FOR LAY PREACHING

After having conducted services for a considerable time, I felt led to undertake the Certificate Course for Lay Preachers of the United Reformed Church. It will probably be a matter of interest to fellow church members to know something of the actual content of that particular Course. Recently it has been changed.. but here is a little of what is contained in that Certificate Course consisting of 6 blocks following a preliminary course -----

A - New Testament - The Gospels, Acts, Paul and the Pauline Epistles; John's Gospel and Epistles; Hebrews; Catholic Epistles; Revelation.

B - Old Testament and Church History - the Church History ranging from the first 1,000 years to present day.

C - Worship in the Church - covering such subjects as pattern of order of services, construction of sermons - Treasuries of devotion; the Christian year; Theology; the missionary expansion and Ecumenical Movement.

In all some 57 lengthy essays were written and two Test Services given.

Naturally enough, it could be said that one is much wiser having undertaken and now completed such a Course, and I am glad to have been able to study in this way.

But no Christian can ever say "I know it all", and so I, with others, will go on studying.

It is a wonderful thing to be called to proclaim the word of God and the more one is called to do so the more humble must one be, for we are all but tools in His hands.

Maud Nash.

Congratulations are due to Mrs Nash who has now passed Block Six of the Lay Preachers' Training Course. Word of this has been given to us by the District Lay Preachers' Secretary, Mrs Edith Gillon, who informs us that Mrs Nash will be presented with her certificate at the next District Meeting on the first Friday in April. Ed.

F I V E H Y M N S

The suggestions made in last Month's "Messenger" by Don Munday have brought no less than three letters in response. Kathleen Hill for instance, writes: "I agree the second hymn should be a "young" one but I am not in favour of 5 hymns at an ordinary service, especially when it is quite likely that there may be some hymns the tunes of which are new to 99% of the congregation. I am happy to learn unfamiliar tunes but not every week and not more than one per service. I, and others to judge by comments made over coffee, find it very difficult to praise God with words, when one is searching for notes. Whatever happened to Norfolk Park, Southport, Salzburg, Linton, Lloyd, Silver Hill, Kinsale etc? (They now sound more like a mystery tour than hymn tunes.

"Regarding children's hymns, I remember touring the shops a few years ago trying unsuccessfully to buy a record of "Jesus Bids Us Shine" for my daughter. Our children may have missed something through not hearing these hymns in church, but I am sure that Don will agree they are familiar and happy with some modern ones which have an equal message:"He's Got The Whole World", "When I Needed A Neighbour","Kumbayah",etc. The only difficulty is that these are not in Congregational Praise.

"For Don and myself, I feel that we shall have to live on our memories (a sure sign of age). How about stamping your feet to 4 choruses of "There is sunshine in my soul today"? Happy Days!!

Audrey Baines says, "I still feel that 4 hymns in the morning service is sufficient but would love one of them to be one of the old familiar hymns with the adults joining in only in the first and last verses. As for a shortage of readers in church, the last time I read was last November so there seems to be quite a waiting list before ones turn comes round again, but I would agree that few people would be prepared to preach or lead prayers. My children attend Moorhouse School and know all the hymns that I used to sing as a child and if they sing them in day school they could equally do so in Junior Church. In our Primary Department we do sing quite often but oh, how I have pleaded

for a piano in that room and we still have not got one even though we now have a teacher who is able to play.

"Finally, may I say that I have never attended a church where the congregation participated so much in the service. I think this is lovely. It starts at the door, where the children of the duty officers often assist with issuing hymn books; the lesson is read by a member of the congregation; the notices given by an Elder; the offertory collected by children and adults and this is particularly delightful when ones own offspring are involved.

"It was this act of congregational participation that appealed to me most, when on moving to Milnrow I changed from Methodist to Congregationalist."

The Minister points out that 5 hymns are used at evening service but that in the morning; "There is a need to have the children in their classes so that there is sufficient time to do the work they have to do there. The hymns suggested are acceptable; one is actually used but the others are not in our book. Enquiry reveals that 18 people at least, are available to read the Family Scripture and prayers during the service are normally led by the person conducting worship. Churches do not depend upon lay preachers in the individual church but draw from the Lay Preachers Fellowship if there is need.

"Our correspondent suggests there is not participation by the children, but surely, we have seen the various departments of the Junior Church present items regularly. There is equally a story for them, sometimes with questions and answers. Children have been asked into the pulpit to identify people in the congregation and they also receive a card on their birthdays. Quite a little participation I would suggest."

The Editor would like to extend THANKS to the above contributors and APOLOGIES for severely editing their remarks. THANKS also go to Don Munday for provoking this important debate and APOLOGIES to him for the verbal battering he has received. At least all this reinforces the view that this church thrives on the participation of its members.

LITTLEBOROUGH LADIES GUILD SEEK PEACE

At the AGM of the Ladies' Guild held on 16th March two suggestions were considered as possible Guild mottoes for the coming year. These were,

"GOD BLESS OUR GUILD"

and

"PEACE IN OUR TIME"

It was eventually decided to adopt both.

Despite inclement weather and some sickness the attendance was good and officers were elected as follows:

President:	Mrs M. Nash
Vice President & Treasurer:	Mrs M. Hill
Secretary:	Mrs A. Stott
Visitors:	Mrs D.Leach & Mrs J.Jowett
Pianist:	Mrs E. Cockroft
Auditor:	Mrs L. Holt

Thanks were expressed to all those who had helped in any way in the last year.

This might be a good time to issue A REMINDER that the Guild is for all ladies, of all ages and particular welcome is extended to mums of Junior Church scholars. A special invitation goes to you to come to our next meeting on Tuesday April 20th at 7.30pm and to the Ladies Day Services about which more news will be available next month.

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It's nice to think that happiness
Is just a smile away
That gloomy thoughts and ugly moods
Need never spoil our day.
If we can learn the simple art
Of smiling now and then,
And thinking only pleasant thoughts
Whilst counting up to ten.
The world outside will greet us
With a wide infectious grin,
For smiling is contagious
And it lets the sunshine in.

PLAYING THE GAME

The Pilots have been very busy during March. On Friday 5th several members travelled to Heaton Moor URC to take part in a Quiz and Games Competition. A very enjoyable evening followed, though we did rather wonder how the two teams saw one another when we looked at the results of the "Draw-A-Picture-Of-The-Pilot-Opposite-You Competition. We began to wonder if our opponents thought we had been contaminated by one of Dr Who's ghastly adversaries.

On the 10th, we entertained family and friends at our Open Evening. We give hearty thanks to everyone for their generous support and hope that you all had an enjoyable evening. We raised £23.51 which was an excellent result.

Next month promises to be equally eventful. From 10th to 15th April, seven of us will be at Camp at Barnston Dale and on 24th the Quiz and Games Team will meet three other Pilot Companies in the final of their competition at Bolton. Good Luck, Team.

LABOURERS IN THE CHURCHYARD

You may have noticed (you'd better) that the church yard now looks tons tidier, thanks to the hours of toil put in by Mr & Mrs Lightfoot, Mr Mullen and Mr Simpson. There is still much to be done, however, even though the rubbish has been cleared. For instance, we would be very grateful for some soil so that we can start some flower beds to plant along with the flowering cherry tree which have already been planted. Please see Mr Simpson if you can help in this work. Transport can be arranged for any soil, plants etc. you might be able to give.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr & Mrs Eric Holt celebrate their Ruby Wedding in April and we offer them our sincere congratulations. We also wish Mrs Holt an improvement in health as she and Mr Holt head forward to their Gold.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Apr. 4th	Mr J. Holt	Mr F. Beattie
11th	Mr H.N. Hill	Mrs Crossley
18th	Mr E. Holt	Mr J. Hill
25th	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY	
May 2nd	Mr R. Mullen	Mrs Stott

COFFEE ROTA

Apr. 4th	J. Hobbs	W. Spinks
11th	J. Allison	B. Allison
18th	L. Butterworth	B. Holt
25th	P. Mullen, S. Moss, B. Hartley	
May 2nd	A. Wall	P. Wall

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Apr. 4th	a.m.	Mrs M. Hill
11th	a.m.	Miss L. Merrick
18th	a.m.	Mrs E. Cockroft
25th	a.m. / p.m.	Mr A. Clegg

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Apr. 4th	P. Lightfoot
11th	K. Hill
18th	M. Law
25th	
May 2nd	R. Mullen

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Apr. 4th	Mrs Wade
11th	Mrs Priestley
18th	Mrs Grindrod
25th	Mrs Moss
May 2nd	Mrs Mullen

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Apr. 4th	Mr. J. Collins	Stephen Collins
11th	Mr H. Mellor	Mrs F. Butterworth
15th	Mr. B. Clough	
16th	Mr. A. Busill	
18th	Mrs J. Duffy	Mrs A. Baines
25th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr A. Rae
May 2nd	Mrs F. Rae	Mrs P. Royle

ELDERS ROTA

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
April			
4th	Mr A. Busill	Mr H. Whitehead	Mr D. Logan
11th	Mr H. Whitehead	Mr B. Clough	
18th	Mr J. Wild	Mr A. Sharples	
25th	Mrs M. Howarth	Mr D. Munday	
May 2	Mr B. Clough	Mrs M. Howarth	Mr D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Apr. 4th	Mr B. Clough	Mr A. Sharples
15th	Mr A. Busill	Mr H. Whitehead
18th	Mr J. Wild	Mr B. Clough
	Mr A. Sharples	Mr H. Whitehead

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Apr. 4th	Mrs J. Cudworth	Mrs N. Settle
11th	Mrs C. Hey	Mrs M. Mellor
18th	Miss M. Wood	Mrs [illegible]
25th	Mrs A. Wood	Mrs E. Garside
May 2nd	Mrs Munday	Mrs M. Ogden

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

COLLECTIONS cash

	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Feb. 1st	9.19	1.40	11.00½	21.59½
8th	5.47	7.00	12.89	25.36
15th	8.32	1.45	17.07½	26.84½
22nd	10.35	13.54	12.60½	36.49½
29th	7.85	1.68	11.10	20.63
	£41.18	£25.07	£64.67½	£130.92½

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

4th	The family of man and family of God	Eph. 3 11-19
11th	Training the Disciples	Mark 4 1-12
18th	The strength of Love	Mark 11 1-10
25th	Jesus goes on before us	Mark 16 1-8

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH BA
The Manse
196 Harbour Lane
Milnrow

Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES

MILNROW

Mr A Busill
3 Ladyhouse Close
Milnrow

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr F G Simpson
121 Calderbrook Road
Littleborough

Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

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